

Message Text

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61

ORIGIN L-03

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL NASSAU PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 115794

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, CPRS, BF, US

SUBJECT: SUNKEN TREASURE - SEAFINDERS, INC. CASE

REF: A. STATE 686

B. NASSAU 783

C. STATE 88181 AND PREVIOUS

1. WITH RESPECT TO PARA 4 REF A, NEITHER DEPARTMENT NOR USG ARE IN POSITION TO VOUCH FOR HONESTY AND INTEGRITY OF PRESIDENT KELLEY OR OTHER SEAFINDERS PERSONNEL, AS WE HAVE NO EFFECTIVE MEANS OF, OR AUTHORITY TO, FORMULATE INFORMED, INDEPENDENT OPINION. NEVERTHELESS, WE BELIEVE GOBI MIGHT BE SATISFIED IF CONSULATE GENERAL WERE TO INDICATE THAT AFTER SEVERAL CONVERSATIONS WITH KELLEY, NEITHER CONSULATE GENERAL NOR DEPARTMENT HAVE ANY BASIS FOR QUESTIONING HIS INTEGRITY, AND IF CONSULATE GENERAL WERE TO TRANSMIT TO GOBI OFFICIALS LETTERS OF INTRODUCTION/REFERENCE PROVIDED BY KELLEY FROM BUSINESS ASSOCIATES WHO KNOW HIM AND HAVE CONFIDENCE IN HIM. (SOURCE OF SUCH LETTERS WOULD, OF COURSE, BE EXPLAINED TO GOBI.

2. DEPARTMENT LAWYERS HAVE DISCUSSED THIS POSSIBILITY BOTH WITH ASSISTANT TO SENATOR BELLMON (OKLA.) WHO FIRST
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BROUGHT KELLEY TO OUR ATTENTION, AND WITH KELLEY HIMSELF.
BELLMON' S ASSISTANT INDICATED HIS UNDERSTANDING OF OUR

PROBLEM AND CONCURRED IN PROPOSAL TO ASK KELLEY FOR
INDEPENDENT LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION. WHEN IDEA WAS
SUGGESTED TO KELLEY, HE AGAIN ASKED THAT DEPARTMENT AND
CONGEN INDICATE TO GOBI OUR ASSURANCES - BASED ON
RELATIVELY LIMITED KNOWLEDGE - OF SEAFINDERS/ KELLEY
INTEGRITY. WE EXPLAINED, HOWEVER, THAT DEPARTMENT FELT
IT COULD NOT GO FURTHER THAN INDICATING TO GOBI THAT TO
OUR KNOWLEDGE WE HAD NO REASON TO DOUBT HIS VERACITY.
WE SUGGESTED THAT EVEN SUCH A LIMITED STATEMENT,
ACCOMPANIED BY LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION, MIGHT WELL BE
SUFFICIENT TO CONVINCE GOBI THAT SEAFINDERS WAS
FINANCIALLY RESPONSIBLE OPERATION. KELLEY AGREED AND
SAID THAT HE WOULD SEND LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION FROM
OKLAHOMA AND NEW YORK BANKERS WITH WHOM HE IS DIRECTLY
ACQUAINTED TO CONGEN, WITH COPIES TO DEPARTMENT.

3. IF CONGEN HAS NO OBJECTION, LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION,
WHEN THEY ARRIVE, SHOULD BE DELIVERED TO APPROPRIATE
GOBI OFFICIAL WITH ORAL APPROACH ALONG THE LINES
SUGGESTED ABOVE. WHILE USG SHOULD NOT PUT ITSELF IN
POSITION OF HAVING VOUCHERED FOR US CITIZEN OF WHOM
DEPARTMENT OFFICERS HAVE NO EXTENSIVE PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE,
DEPARTMENT BELIEVES YOU CAN PROPERLY INDICATE OUR LACK
OF ANY NEGATIVE INFORMATION ON PERSONS INVOLVED, WHILE
SUGGESTING THAT PRIVATE LETTERS OF REFERENCE SHOULD PRO-
VIDE WHATEVER VERIFICATION OF INTEGRITY IS REQUIRED.
(WE ASSUME KELLEY WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION IF GOBI
OFFICIALS WISH TO CORRESPOND DIRECTLY WITH PERSONS WHO
PROVIDED REFERENCES.) RUSH

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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